



March 26, 2019

Dear House Education Committee Members:

On behalf of the Douglas County School District (DCSD) Board of Education, I am writing to you to ask that you oppose HB 19-1249 Safety and Accountability in School Contracts. Our community appreciates the constitutional authority our State gives locally elected Boards of Education to perform essential functions including, but not limited to, determining the budget to be used to implement the local community's priorities and the process for determining the terms and conditions of employment for school district employees. The provisions of this bill are contrary to our local Board's policies, which were deliberated and developed to promote good stewardship by all District employees and the Board of Education. Douglas County Schools has a proven track record of effectively managed contracts due to the implementation of existing policies on behalf of our 68,000 students and 8,400 employees. As the largest employer in Douglas County we have thoughtfully tailored our policies to our District's size and operational structures. Respectfully, HB 19-1249 does not.

For instance, our DCSD Policy DJ requires approval by the Board of Education for all single contractual purchase obligations of \$500,000 or greater, and all purchases with an aggregated annual amount payable to a single vendor of \$500,000 or greater. HB 19-1249 would reduce this threshold for services contracts with personnel costs of \$200,000 or more. Adding more requirements to these contracts such as completing a cost/benefit analysis, holding public hearings prior to soliciting bids, allowing existing employees to counter the bids, and reviewing all bids in a school board meeting would increase our staff costs (without additional funding being awarded by the State). The contracts entered by DCSD at this spending threshold and classification are already effectively managed by our Superintendent per our existing policies, such as policy DJE, without the addition of more prescriptive layers of bureaucracy.

Thank you for your service to our Colorado community. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or need additional information to oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

David Ray, President  
Douglas County School District Board of Education

On behalf of the Douglas County School District Board of Education

Christina Ciano-Schor  
Anthony Graziano  
Krista Holtzmann  
Anne-Marie Lemieux  
Kevin Leung  
David Ray  
Wendy Vogel